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Interior &
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Painting &
Decorating

Newsletter

Number 36

11 December



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 Email – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

.. To those who helped to make our 2015 prize giving such a special occasion. You truly did honour our award recipients and sent the message that their diligence was worthy of acknowledgement.

.. To those who attended this week's "Keeping Ourselves Safe" meeting.

.. To those who have supported the school in any way whatsoever over the course of 2015.

People of the week

.. award recipients!

.. their support teams!

.. our international students who add depth and character to our school.

Best wishes as you prepare to head home. We hope you will take many happy memories with you.

Term dates 2016

Term 1 2 February to 15 April

Term 2 2 May to 8 July

Term 3 25 July to 23 September

Term 4 10 October to ... to be advised

Final Day

Please note that school finishes at 3:00pm Monday 14 December. The school is "open" on the day, but it is your call whether or not your child attends on this day.

Buses on the final day ... 14 December

The school will be officially open on Monday 14 December in order to "clock up" the number of required days. Buses will run to relatively normal times this day (from 3:05pm) but unpredictable bus loadings could significantly alter bus pick up and drop off times. Please be aware of this. If you intend sending your children along to school on this day (your call) please you may need to factor in a margin either side of usual times.

Lost Property

Please drop by to check the lost property bin sometime before the final day of school. Items unclaimed by term's end will be donated to charities.

School Security

Please assist by keeping a close eye on the school over the holidays. If you notice anything suspicious please phone United Security (4301992) or Steve Martin (4335061) and take registration numbers of suspicious vehicles. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



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Staffing for 2016

The Board is pleased to announce 2016 staffing as follows ..

Teaching staff	Support staff
Room 1 Mrs Walker / Miss Gentil Year 1	Teacher Aides
Room 2 Mrs Marvin (Mrs Slykerman) Year 1	Mrs Neumann
Room 3 Mrs Burgin Year 1 and 2	Mrs Crawford
Room 4 Miss Bevin Year 2	Mrs Wynyard
Room 5 Miss Griffin Year 3	Mrs Pol
Room 6 Mrs Milicich Year 3	Ms Hannam
Room 7 Mrs Watts Year 4	Mr Ripo
Room 8 Mr Johnson Year 4 and 5	Information Technology
Room 9 Mr Schuster Year 5 and 6	Mrs Sullivan
Room 10 Miss Blundell Year 5 and 6	Administration
Room 11 Mrs Donaldson Year 7 and 8	Mrs Dorahy
Room 12 Mr Le Breton Year 7 and 8	Mrs Sinclair
(thirteenth room to start mid-year with new entrants - year 0)	Caretaker / Grounds
Information Technologies - student support senior school - Mr Delemare	Mr Palmer
Te Reo - Miss Morunga	
Class/student support / intervention - Mrs Gunson	
Special Needs - Mrs Comrie (ESOL) / Mrs Williams	
Reading Recovery / Junior diagnostics - Mrs Robertson	
Deputy Principal - Mrs Robertson / Assistant Principal - Mr Schuster	
Senior teacher (senior school) - Mrs Donaldson	

Farewell Mrs Abbott

Some of you may be aware that Mrs Abbott has been appointed to a teaching position at Whangarei Boys' High School for next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Abbott for her services to Matarau School over quite a number of years. Mrs Abbott is a hugely conscientious teacher. She has delivered exceptional programmes, and many former students consider her one of their best ever teachers. We wish Mrs Abbott the very best for next year (and beyond). She will be missed. Whangarei Boys' High School is fortunate to get her.

2016 School Stationery

As for 2015, stationery will need to be ordered online via the OfficeMax website - www.myschool.co.nz



Search for Matarau School and then your child's class. A small slip of yellow paper has been sent home with your children today confirming which class they are in next year. You will find complete class stationery lists with unit prices on the officemax website. Orders can be placed across the holidays for delivery before school starts. If you do not have internet access please contact Helen for a printed list.

Reports

Reports were issued today. The report contains statements on your child's effort and attainment in key learning areas and with respect to their social skills and work habits. These statements are summative - meaning that they have been formed after consulting multiple sources of information gathered over the course of the year. They also incorporate teacher judgements based on literally thousands of interactions with your child over the course of the year. Although this report is principally for you, please feel free to share it with your child. Draw attention to their successes and perhaps identify some areas for future focus.

Finally, remember that no single method of reporting should stand alone. Impressions need to be weighed against those from other methods of reporting including early and mid-year interviews, portfolios, student achievement data and so forth. Please congratulate your child on our behalf for the gains they have made.

Digital Devices 2016 - year 4 and up

Last year we introduced an option for parents of paying a full school contribution (which we acknowledge is voluntary), or reduced contribution, if they chose to purchase an ipad for their child. Our goals were to reduce demand on our existing stock of devices, and to allow parents to make the choice on whether or not they wanted their child to have their own (take home) device. This system seems to have worked well, and we would like to put the same option to parents next year. Those who purchased their own devices last year

will continue to be levied the lower rate for as long as their child brings their own device to school (remember this does not preclude them, also, using school devices). We also advised that we would commit to providing the most cost effective route for parents who opt for purchasing.

Accordingly ...

... we are also inviting parent, who wish, to opt for laptops or chromebooks as an alternative (these may be a little cheaper). Our suggestion is ipads are best for those in year 4 (and that they will be able to use these right through to year 8 OR pass to a younger sibling), if around year 6, or entering the senior school, you may (your choice) wish to opt for chromebooks or laptops (especially with secondary school in mind).

A number of parents have fed back an understandable concern that too much time on devices may have some detrimental effects on children. We share this concern and will ensure that time is spent away from devices. An informal survey of teachers this week indicated that most children are spending around 30-40% of their learning time on devices, they are discouraged from using devices during break time.

... **we have arranged a special deal with Noel Leeming ... please find attached to this newsletter.**

n.b. parents should feel under no pressure to purchase devices for their children ... this is your call ... we will do our best to provide as many shared (non-take home devices) as we can.

Special Thanks to

Our sponsors for their generous Contributions to our School

Staff for efforts, beyond the call of duty

The Board for its unswerving dedication to duty

Children for striving to attain your goals (and for supporting others towards the same end)

To the many parents etc. who have given their time to help in classrooms, camp, sports days, transport

To those who have given us the benefit of the doubt when things didn't quite turn out right.

We have plenty of exciting things planned for next year including a (continued) special focus on personalised learning, a school wide focus on writing, further room refurbishments, low class numbers in the junior school, special support for struggling writers, new opportunities for children to learn Te Reo, and initiatives for providing you with improved information on the progress and achievement of your children.

In the senior school we will have a fully functioning science lab, the Cambridge programme up and running, options / extension programmes (with an emphasis on fun and practical learning) including European history, more foreign languages, delving deeper into science, team building / sports science and more.

We look forward to sharing much more about these with you in the New Year.

And finally

Prize giving reminded me that real success seldom happens by accident. It is usually the result of diligent effort. Full credit to every child who received an award at prize giving, and to all of those children who worked hard to grow their learning, achieve their goals, overcome their fears and enrich the lives of others. But just as important, behind every successful child is a back stage team of parents and teachers who get stuck in and do their best, in a job that is often more an art than a science. You can take credit too.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. Best wishes to those who end their association with us this year - we hope you will reflect positively on your period of involvement with our school.

Not quite finally ... Dylan (room 6) has just come in with a joke .. and so here it is ..

"What do you call a cat covered in sand?" "Sandy claws!"

Regards

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them



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Community Notices

Wanted to Rent – Large 3 or 4 bedroom house in Matarau, Ruatangata areas from December / January. Please phone Dion on 021 0826 9976.

Hopscotch For Kids After School Care

Based at Kensington Park, we transport kids to our centre after school. Daily activities for term 4 - tee ball, mini games, soccer, cooking and basketball. Open until 5.45pm. WINZ subsidies for those who qualify. For more info or to enrol, contact Abbey 0212372598 or email - hello@hopscotchforkids.co.nz

Hurupaki Educare pre Christmas/January 2016 Holiday Programme

We are opening pre Christmas on Monday 21st December for 3 days and again on Tuesday 5th January 2016 for 4 weeks. We are based in the Hurupaki School Hall. The programme is OSCAR accredited, families can apply for WINZ assistance - conditions apply. Discounts available for two or more children from the one family. Check schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz or contact Christin on 0274821331 more info.

Northkidz Home Based Preschool Care – Local Matarau / Ruatangata area. Spaces available 2016. Hours between 7am to 6pm (after hours negotiable). Pickup & dropoff between school hours. 20 hours ECE. Subsidy available to those eligible. Fun, rural, educational environment in a safe family atmosphere. Phone Trish 435 5775 or 021 843 100 or trish_reumah@hotmail.com

Fundraising in 2016

A quick update for fundraising events scheduled for Term 1 2016 so far. Volunteers will be asked for next term. Thank you in advance.



MARK THIS DATE...

On Friday 12 February 2016 we are planning on having a meet and greet, for ALL families followed by a cushion **movie night**. More info next term.

SWEETCORN

School will be selling Sweetcorn at the beginning of next term with 100% of the money going to school. More info next term.



Have a safe and happy holiday, and we look forward to another successful year at Matarau.

Thank you